



Problems of periodic solutions for a type of Duffing equation with state-dependent delay

Bo Du^{a,*}, Chuanzhi Bai^a, Xiangkui Zhao^b

^a Department of Mathematics, Huaiyin Teachers College, Huaian, Jiangsu 223300, PR China

^b Department of Mathematics and Mechanics, School of Applied Science, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing 100083, PR China

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ABSTRACT

Sufficient criteria are established for the existence of periodic solutions to a type of Duffing equation with state-dependent delay, which improve and generalize some related results in the literature. The approach is based on Mawhin's continuation theorem. The significance of the present paper is that our results are relevant to delay by Lemma 2.1, which is different from the corresponding results of past work.

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1. Introduction

The Duffing equation $x''(t) + g(x(t)) = p(t)$ has been studied by many researchers because of its widely applied background. In recent years, some important results have been obtained for the existence of periodic solutions to delay Duffing equations (see papers [1–4]). However, these results have been obtained in the case where τ is a constant or τ is only related to time t . We note that the resilient conditions, g is bounded and $\int_0^T p(t)dt = 0$, were imposed on g and f in most of the papers.

In fact, delay is not only related to time t but is also related to the current state $x(t)$. As is well known, over the past several years it has become apparent that equations with state-dependent delays arise in several areas such as in population models [5], in models of cell productions [6], and in models of commodity price fluctuations [7]. Hence there is more practical significance in studying the Duffing equation with state-dependent delay.

In this paper, we will consider the following Duffing equation with state-dependent delay:

$$x''(t) + g(x(t - \tau(t, x(t)))) = p(t), \quad (1)$$

where $g \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$; $p \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ with $p(t + T) = p(t)$; $\tau \in C(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}_+)$ with $\tau(t + T, x) = \tau(t, x)$, $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$; $T > 0$ is a given constant and $\mathbb{R}_+ = [0, \infty)$. By employing Mawhin's continuation theorem and some analysis approaches, a new result on the existence of periodic solutions is obtained on weaker conditions. Even if $\tau(t, x(t))$ degenerates into a constant τ or univariate function $\tau(t)$, here we extend the corresponding results of past work. It is worth stating that our results are related to the delay and the methods for estimating prior bounds are new, which are different from the corresponding results of past work [8–10].

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: dubo7307@163.com (B. Du).

2. Preliminaries

In this section, we give some lemmas which will be used in this paper. Let

$$C_T = \{x | x \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}), x(t+T) \equiv x(t), \forall t \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

with the norm

$$|\varphi|_0 = \max_{t \in [0, T]} |\varphi(t)|, \quad \forall \varphi \in C_T$$

and

$$C_T^1 = \{x | x \in C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}), x(t+T) \equiv x(t), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

with the norm

$$\|\varphi\| = \max_{t \in [0, T]} \{|\varphi|_0, |\varphi'|_0\}, \quad \forall \varphi \in C_T^1.$$

Clearly, C_T and C_T^1 are Banach spaces. Define a linear operator

$$L : D(L) \subset C_T^1 \rightarrow C_T, \quad Lx = x'', \quad (2)$$

where $D(L) = \{x | x \in C^2(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}), x(t+T) \equiv x(t)\}$, and a nonlinear operator

$$N : C_T^1 \rightarrow C_T, \quad Nx = -g(x(t - \tau(t, x(t)))) + p(t). \quad (3)$$

It is easy to see

$$\text{Ker } L = \{a, a \in \mathbb{R}\}, \quad \text{Im } L = \{y | y \in C_T, \int_0^T y(s) ds = 0\}.$$

So $\text{Im } L$ is closed in C_T and $\dim \text{Ker } L = \text{codim Im } L = 1$, then the operator L is a Fredholm operator with index zero. Define continuous projectors

$$P : C_T \rightarrow \text{Ker } L, \quad Px = x(0)$$

and

$$Q : C_T \rightarrow C_T / \text{Im } L, \quad Qy = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T y(s) ds.$$

It is easy to get

$$\text{Im } P = \text{Ker } L \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Ker } Q = \text{Im } L.$$

Set operators

$$L_p = L|_{D(L) \cap \text{Ker } P} : D(L) \cap \text{Ker } P \rightarrow \text{Im } L.$$

Then L_p has a unique continuous inverse operator L_p^{-1} on $\text{Im } L$ defined by

$$(L_p^{-1}y)(t) = \int_0^T G(t, s)y(s)ds,$$

where

$$G(t, s) = \begin{cases} \frac{s(T-t)}{T}, & 0 \leq s < t; \\ \frac{t(T-s)}{T}, & t \leq s \leq T. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Lemma 2.1. Let $0 \leq \alpha \leq T$ be a constant, $s(t) \in C_T$ with $0 \leq s(t) \leq \alpha$. Then for $\forall x \in C_T^1$, we have

$$\int_0^T |x(t-s(t)) - x(t)|^2 dt \leq \beta \int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \beta &= \max \left\{ \max_{\sigma \in [-\alpha, 0]} \int_0^{\sigma+\alpha} s(t) dt, \max_{\sigma \in [T-\alpha, T]} \int_\sigma^T s(t) dt, \max_{\sigma \in [0, T-\alpha]} \int_\sigma^{\sigma+\alpha} s(t) dt \right\} \\ &= \max_{\sigma \in [0, T-\alpha]} \int_\sigma^{\sigma+\alpha} s(t) dt. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Since

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^T |x(t-s(t)) - x(t)|^2 dt &= \int_0^T \left| \int_{t-s(t)}^t x'(\sigma) d\sigma \right|^2 dt \\
 &\leq \int_0^T s(t) \int_{t-s(t)}^t |x'(\sigma)|^2 d\sigma dt \\
 &\leq \int_0^T \int_{t-\alpha}^t s(t) |x'(\sigma)|^2 d\sigma dt \\
 &= \int_{-\alpha}^0 \int_0^{\sigma+\alpha} s(t) |x'(\sigma)|^2 dt d\sigma + \int_0^{T-\alpha} \int_{\sigma}^{\sigma+\alpha} s(t) |x'(\sigma)|^2 dt d\sigma + \int_{T-\alpha}^T \int_{\sigma}^T s(t) |x'(\sigma)|^2 dt d\sigma \\
 &\leq \max_{\sigma \in [-\alpha, 0]} \left\{ \int_0^{\sigma+\alpha} s(t) dt \right\} \int_{-\alpha}^0 |x'(\sigma)|^2 d\sigma + \max_{\sigma \in [0, T-\alpha]} \left\{ \int_{\sigma}^{\sigma+\alpha} s(t) dt \right\} \int_0^{T-\alpha} |x'(\sigma)|^2 d\sigma \\
 &\quad + \max_{\sigma \in [T-\alpha, T]} \left\{ \int_{\sigma}^T s(t) dt \right\} \int_{T-\alpha}^T |x'(\sigma)|^2 d\sigma \\
 &\leq \beta \int_0^T |x'(\sigma)|^2 d\sigma.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence we obtain that Lemma 2.1 holds. \square

Now, let $\tau(t) \geq 0 \in C_T$, then there must exist two integers k and m with $k \geq 0$ and $m \geq 1$ such that

$$\tau(t) \in [kT, (k+m)T], \quad \tau(t) \notin (0, kT) \cup ((k+m)T, +\infty). \quad (5)$$

Denote

$$E_i = \{t : t \in [0, T], \tau(t) \in [(k+i)T, (k+i+1)T]\}, \quad (i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m-1),$$

$$\tau_0(t) = \begin{cases} \tau(t), & t \in E_0, \\ (k+1)T, & t \in [0, T] \setminus E_0 \end{cases}$$

and

$$\tau_j(t) = \begin{cases} \tau(t), & t \in E_j, \\ (k+j)T, & t \in [0, T] \setminus E_j. \end{cases}$$

Obviously, $\bigcup_{i=0}^{m-1} E_i = [0, T]$; $(k+1)T - \tau_0(t) \in [0, T]$ and $\tau_j(t) - (k+j)T \in [0, T]$, $\forall t \in [0, T]$, $(j = 1, 2, \dots, m-1)$. Let

$$\delta_0 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} [(k+1)T - \tau_0(t)], \quad \delta_j = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} [\tau_j(t) - (k+j)T],$$

then we have $\delta_0, \delta_{m-1} \in [0, T]$, $\delta_j = T$, $(j = 1, 2, \dots, m-2)$.

Lemma 2.2. Let $\tau(t, x(t)) \in C_T$ satisfying (5) and $x \in C_T^1$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^T |x(t - \tau(t, x(t))) - x(t)|^2 dt &\leq \left(\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{m-2} \beta_j \right) \int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt, \quad \text{for } 2 < m < \infty, \\
 \int_0^T |x(t - \tau(t, x(t))) - x(t)|^2 dt &\leq (\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1}) \int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt, \quad \text{for } 1 \leq m \leq 2,
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \beta_0 &= \max_{\sigma \in [0, T-\delta_0]} \int_{\sigma}^{\sigma+\delta_0} \tau(t, x(t)) dt, \\
 \beta_{m-1} &= \max_{\sigma \in [0, T-\delta_{m-1}]} \int_{\sigma}^{\sigma+\delta_{m-1}} \tau(t, x(t)) dt, \\
 \beta_j &= \int_0^T \tau(t, x(t)) dt, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m-2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We show that Lemma 2.2 holds in case of $2 < m < \infty$. From

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T |x(t - \tau(t, x(t))) - x(t)|^2 dt &= \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \int_{E_i} |x(t) - x(t - \tau_i(t, x(t)))|^2 dt \\ &= \int_{E_0} |x(t) - x(t - \tau_0(t, x(t)))|^2 dt + \int_{E_{m-1}} |x(t) - x(t - \tau_{m-1}(t, x(t)))|^2 dt \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \int_{E_i} |x(t) - x(t - \tau_i(t, x(t)))|^2 dt \\ &= \int_{E_0} |x(t) - x(t - \tau_0(t, x(t)) + (k+1)T)|^2 dt \\ &\quad + \int_{E_{m-1}} |x(t) - x(t - \tau_{m-1}(t, x(t)) + (k+m-1)T)|^2 dt \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \int_{E_i} |x(t) - x(t - \tau_i(t, x(t)) + (k+i)T)|^2 dt, \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 2.1, we get

$$\int_0^T |x(t - \tau(t, x(t))) - x(t)|^2 dt \leq \left(\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{m-2} \beta_j \right) \int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt.$$

In case of $1 \leq m \leq 2$, the result is clear. \square

Lemma 2.3 ([11]). Let $x \in C_T^1$, and there exists a constant $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $x(\xi) = 0$. Then we have

$$\int_0^T |x(t)|^2 dt \leq \frac{T^2}{\pi^2} \int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt.$$

Lemma 2.4 ([12]). Suppose that X and Y are two Banach spaces, and $L : D(L) \subseteq X \rightarrow Y$, is a Fredholm operator with index zero. Furthermore, $\Omega \subset X$ is an open bounded set and $N : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow Y$ is L -compact on $\bar{\Omega}$. If all the following conditions hold:

- (1) $Lx \neq \lambda Nx, \forall x \in \partial\Omega \cap D(L), \forall \lambda \in (0, 1)$,
- (2) $Nx \notin \text{Im } L, \forall x \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker } L$,
- (3) $\deg\{QN, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} \neq 0$.

Then equation $Lx = Nx$ has a solution on $\bar{\Omega} \cap D(L)$.

3. Existence of a periodic solution for Eq. (1)

Theorem 3.1. Suppose that there exist constants $d > 0$ and $L \geq 0$ such that

- (H1) $xg(x) < 0$ and $|g(x)| > |p|_0$, whenever $|x| > d$,
- (H2) $|g(x_1) - g(x_2)| \leq L|x_1 - x_2|, \forall x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

Then Eq. (1) has at least one T -periodic solution, if

$$\frac{LT}{\pi} \left(\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \beta_i \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} < 1.$$

Proof. Consider the operator equation:

$$Lx = \lambda Nx, \tag{6}$$

where L and N are defined by (2) and (3) respectively. Let $x(t)$ be an arbitrary T -periodic solution of Eq. (6). Suppose t_0 and t_1 be the global maximum point and global minimum point of $x(t)$ on $[0, T]$ respectively. Then $x'(t_0) = 0, x''(t_0) \leq 0$, and

$$g(x(t_0 - \tau(t_0, x(t_0)))) \geq p(t_0) \geq -|p|_0. \tag{7}$$

Similarly, we can obtain

$$g(x(t_1 - \tau(t_1, x(t_1)))) \leq p(t_1) \leq |p|_0. \tag{8}$$

Case 1. If $g(x(t_0 - \tau(t_0, x(t_0)))) > |p|_0$, from (8) we get there exists a point $\eta \in [0, T]$ such that $g(x(\eta - \tau(\eta, x(\eta)))) = |p|_0$. So by assumption (H1) we have

$$|x(\eta - \tau(\eta, x(\eta)))| \leq d.$$

Case 2. If $g(x(t_0 - \tau(t_0, x(t_0)))) \leq |p|_0$, from (7) and assumption (H1) we get

$$|x(t_0 - \tau(t_0, x(t_0)))| \leq d.$$

So in either case (1) or case (2) we always obtain that there is a point $\xi \in [0, T]$ such that

$$|x(\xi - \tau(\xi, x(\xi)))| \leq d.$$

Since $x(t)$ is a T -periodic function, then there is an integer k and a constant $t^* \in [0, T]$ such that $\xi - \tau(\xi, x(\xi)) = kT + t^*$. Then we get

$$|x|_0 \leq |x(t^*)| + \int_0^T |x'(s)| ds \leq d + \int_0^T |x'(s)| ds. \quad (9)$$

In the following proof, let $\Delta_1 = \{t \in [0, T] : |x(t)| > d\}$, $\Delta_2 = \{t \in [0, T] : |x(t)| \leq d\}$, $\|u\|_2 = \left(\int_0^T |u(s)|^2 ds\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$. Multiplying both sides of (6) by $x(t)$ and integrating them on $[0, T]$, from Lemma 2.2 we get

$$-\int_0^T (x'(t))^2 dt = -\lambda \int_0^T g(x(t - \tau(t, x(t))))x(t) dt + \lambda \int_0^T p(t)x(t) dt,$$

i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt &= \lambda \int_0^T g(x(t - \tau(t, x(t))))x(t) dt - \lambda \int_0^T p(t)x(t) dt \\ &= \lambda \int_0^T (g(x(t - \tau(t, x(t)))) - g(x(t)))x(t) dt + \lambda \int_0^T g(x(t))x(t) dt - \lambda \int_0^T p(t)x(t) dt \\ &= \lambda \int_0^T (g(x(t - \tau(t, x(t)))) - g(x(t)))x(t) dt + \lambda \int_{\Delta_1} g(x(t))x(t) dt + \lambda \int_{\Delta_2} g(x(t))x(t) dt \\ &\quad - \lambda \int_0^T p(t)x(t) dt \\ &\leq \int_0^T |g(x(t - \tau(t, x(t)))) - g(x(t))||x(t)| dt + g_d \int_0^T |x(t)| dt + \int_0^T |p(t)||x(t)| dt \\ &\leq L \int_0^T |x(t - \tau(t, x(t))) - x(t)||x(t)| dt + g_d T^{\frac{1}{2}} \|x\|_2 + \|p\|_2 \|x\|_2 \\ &\leq L \left(\int_0^T |x(t - \tau(t, x(t))) - x(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|x\|_2 + g_d T^{\frac{1}{2}} \|x\|_2 + \|p\|_2 \|x\|_2 \\ &\leq L \left(\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{m-2} \beta_j \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|x\|_2 + g_d T^{\frac{1}{2}} \|x\|_2 + \|p\|_2 \|x\|_2, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

here $g_d = \max_{t \in \Delta_2} |g(x(t))|$. Now we denote $u(t) = x(t) - x(t^*)$, where t^* is defined by (9). Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x(t)| &\leq |x(t^*)| + |x(t) - x(t^*)| \\ &\leq d + |u(t)|. \end{aligned}$$

From the well known Minkowski inequality, we get

$$\left(\int_0^T |x(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq T^{\frac{1}{2}} d + \left(\int_0^T |u(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (11)$$

Since $u(t^*) = 0$, $u(t + T) = u(t)$, $u'(t) = x'(t)$, by Lemma 2.3 we have

$$\left(\int_0^T |u(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \frac{T}{\pi} \left(\int_0^T |u'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{T}{\pi} \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

combining with (11), we have

$$\left(\int_0^T |x(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq T^{\frac{1}{2}} d + \frac{T}{\pi} \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (12)$$

It follows from (10) and (12) that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt &\leq L \left(\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \beta_j \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(T^{\frac{1}{2}} d + \frac{T}{\pi} \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \\ &\quad + (g_d T^{\frac{1}{2}} + \|p\|_2) \left(T^{\frac{1}{2}} d + \frac{T}{\pi} \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \\ &= \frac{LT}{\pi} \left(\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \beta_j \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \\ &\quad + L \left(\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \beta_j \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} T^{\frac{1}{2}} d \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + (g_d T^{\frac{1}{2}} + \|p\|_2) \frac{T}{\pi} \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + (g_d T^{\frac{1}{2}} + \|p\|_2) T^{\frac{1}{2}} d. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

In view of $\frac{LT}{\pi} \left(\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \beta_j \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} < 1$, from (13) we obtain that there exists a constant $M_1 > 0$ such that

$$\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \leq M_1.$$

So from (9), we have

$$|x|_0 \leq d + T^{\frac{1}{2}} M_1^{\frac{1}{2}} := M_2.$$

By (6) it is easy to see that

$$|x''(t)| \leq g_{M_2} + |p|_0 := M_3, \quad (14)$$

here $g_{M_2} = \max_{|x| \leq M_2} |g(x)|$. As $x(0) = x(T)$, it follows that there is a constant $\eta \in [0, T]$ such that $x'(\eta) = 0$. So by (14) we have

$$|x'|_0 \leq |x'(\eta)| + \int_0^T |x''(s)| ds \leq TM_3 := M_4.$$

Obviously, M_2 and M_4 are independent of λ and x . Take $\Omega = \{x | x \in X, |x|_0 < M_2, |x'|_0 < M_4\}$, $\Omega_1 = \{x | x \in \text{Ker } L, Nx \in \text{Im } L\}$, clearly $\forall x \in \Omega_1$, $x \equiv c$ is a constant and $g(c) = p(t)$, by assumption (H1) we have $|c| \leq d$, hence $\Omega_1 \subset \Omega$ and the conditions (1) and (2) of Lemma 2.4 are satisfied. Now we show that (3) of Lemma 2.4 is true. Let

$$H(x, \mu) = \mu x - \frac{1-\mu}{T} \int_0^T (g(x) - p(t)) dt.$$

It is easy to see that

$$H(x, \mu) \neq 0, \quad \forall (x, \mu) \in (\partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker } L) \times [0, 1].$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \deg\{QN, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} &= \deg\{H(x, 0), \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} \\ &= \deg\{H(x, 1), \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} \\ &= \deg\{I, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Meanwhile, from (3) and (4), we know that N is L ---compact on $\bar{\Omega}$. So by applying Lemma 2.4, we obtain that Eq. (1) has at least a T -periodic solution in $\bar{\Omega}$.

4. Applications

There are extensively applied backgrounds in oscillating theory for Eq. (1). As applications, we here give the following example:

$$x''(t) - \frac{x^3 \left(t - \frac{1}{40}\tau\right)}{1 + x^2 \left(t - \frac{1}{20}\tau\right)} = \sin t, \quad (15)$$

where $g(x) = -\frac{x^3}{1+x^2}$, $\tau = \tau(t, x(t)) = \frac{1}{80} |\cos(t + 10x(t))|$. Clearly, $L = 1$, $T = 2\pi$, $\tau(t, x) \in [0, 4\pi]$, $\forall t \in [0, 2\pi]$. So $k = 0$, $m = 2$, $\delta_0 = \delta_1 = 2\pi$, $\beta_0 = \beta_1 = \frac{\pi}{40}$. So $\frac{LT}{\pi} (\beta_0 + \beta_{m-1})^{\frac{1}{2}} < 1$. Applying Theorem 3.1, Eq. (15) has at least one 2π -periodic solution.

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